GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2473
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2001
VISA SYSTEM BETWEEN INDIA AND BANGLADESH
GADDE RAMAMOHAN;NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA;SHYAMA SINGH

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Bangladesh have recently agreed to relax the existing visa system;

(b) if so, the details of the agreement signed between both the countries;

(c) the number of illegal Bangladeshi immigrants in various parts of the country;

(d) whether the deportation of such immigrants have also been discussed;

(e) if so, the outcome thereof;

(f) whether Government have expressed their concern over the activities of terrorists against India operating from the Bangladesh soil; and
(g) if so, the reaction of Bangladesh thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO)

(a) & (b): The review of the Visa Agreement between India and Bangladesh formed part of the 7th Indo-Bangladesh Joint Working Group Meeting held recently. However, the same is at the discussion stage at present.

(c): It is difficult to make an estimate of the number of infiltrators from Bangladesh because they enter surreptitiously and are able to mingle easily with the local population due to ethnic and linguistic similarities.

(d) & (e): Yes Sir, concern over continued flow of illegal Bangladeshi migrants into India has been expressed by India to Bangladesh. Bangladesh, while denying such illegal expressed concern over migration attempts of India to push Bengali speaking Indian nationals into Bangladesh. However, they agreed to take over convicted Bangladeshi nationals, if any, whose identity as a Bangladeshi has been established after proper verification.

(f) & (g): Yes sir. It was urged upon Bangladesh to take firm and demonstrable action against the militants hiding in Bangladesh. Bangladesh delegation stated that they do not allow any undesirable elements to use their territory for any prejudicial activity against any country including India.